

**Major Community Project Begins
Council President Scott Peters, First District
Carmel Valley News, October 2006**

On October 11, the City of San Diego will celebrate the beginning of another important public safety project in Carmel Valley. Fire Station 47 sits at the heart of Pacific Highlands Ranch, and will primarily serve the neighborhoods in that community as well as in nearby Del Mar Mesa and Torrey Highlands. The station is scheduled to open in Fall of 2007.

Carmel Valley is currently served by Fire Station 24 in Del Mar Heights, and Fire Station 46 in Black Mountain Ranch. Response times are higher than Fire/Rescue officials would like due to the large service area covered by these two stations. My office worked with the City, the Fire Department and Pardee Homes, the developer of Pacific Highlands Ranch, to relocate this new station from its originally planned location in the far north quadrant of the community to a more central site. This will help rescue officials reduce the time it takes to respond to incidents by boosting the number of crews in the area.

Fire Station 47 is another in a series of public safety improvements in Northern San Diego. This January, the Carmel Valley police substation will open with a staff of 20 sworn SDPD officers.

Pardee Homes also deserves credit for their willingness to pay the up-front construction costs for Fire Station 47, as well as helping to offset the cost of the necessary trucks and equipment. Normally, assessment fees would be collected over a period of years before enough money was collected to build a major public improvement. Pardee will eventually recoup their investment as those assessment fees are generated. The City of San Diego will fund the salaries and operating costs for the new station, and is responsible for ongoing maintenance.

Designed in an architectural style befitting its location in Pacific Highlands Ranch, the 10,500 foot facility will feature Mission-style architectural touches such as elliptical arches, smooth finished walls and columns, clay tile roof, towers, and large wooden doors. It will initially house a brand-new engine and crew of four firefighters, with room to grow as the community expands.

Another exciting element of this new station is the public art feature. In 2004, the City Council approved a policy to include public art in all community improvement projects funded by the City. The policy was aimed at promoting San Diego's cultural heritage, and adding warmth and character to community facilities. There are now public art elements at fire stations, parks and other public facilities across the city. I was happy to support this exciting program.

A committee comprised of representatives from the Fire Department, Pardee, the Carmel Valley Planning Board, the project architect and two visual artists selected sculptor Barbara Grygutis of Tucson, Arizona to create pieces for Fire Station 47. Grygutis' work

is featured in cities across the country, including San Diego. Her work on a project at Robb Field was recognized with the prestigious “Orchid” award in 2000. You can see Ms. Grygutis’ proposed design for Fire Station 47 at a public meeting on Tuesday, November 14 at the Carmel Valley Branch Library.

The site dedication will take place at the corner of Edgewood Bend Court and Carmel Valley Road on Wednesday, October 11 at 3:30 p.m.

For more information on this and other projects in Carmel Valley, please visit my website, www.sandiego.gov/cd1.